Excise Department.

Coming to the Excise Department, my suggestions are two-fold. The first relates to the purchase of salt. Till about the year 1865, we were manufacturing our own salt in Cochin. Eevn now in Travancore, they are making nearly fifty per cent of their salt. I should think that we could also with advantage follow the same course. Besides the possible gain to be derived thereby, we can hope that it would give work to a number of young men, and we can further have the satisfaction of circulating the money spent on salt in our State.

My second proposal on this head is in connection with the distillery for the manufacture of alcohol. I understand that the distillery is at present being managed by a contractor, who is a foreign subject. The plant and machinery belong to the Government, and the contractor exists only to reap the middleman's profit. I should think that the Government has to take immediate steps to bring the concern to its direct control, so that we may not lose the profits derived from it.

Forest and the Tramway.

Now, Sir, with respect to the Forest and Tramway, much has been said both in this House and in the report of the Special Finance Committee. In their report, they come to the unanimous conclusion to do away with the Tramway. But to my mind, the Government has to think twice, before it makes any final decision on the matter. To pull down the Tramway would itself require a good amount of expenditure. What I would suggest is that, if all the tracts covered by the Tramway have been completely denuded of timber, it would be advantageous to have the plots adjacent to the Tramway line registered to private individuals for the purpose of agricultural operations. The Tramway could be converted into a pukka Railway line with arrangements to carry passengers also. This would open out a wide tract of land for industrial and agricultural operations. Anyhow, I request the Head of the Department concerned, with his ripe and long experience, to probe into the details and advise the Government on the matter.

Law and Justice.

I shall next deal with the Department of Law and Justice. The budget, on the face of it, shows an income of Rs. 11,300 and an expenditure of Rs. 2,51,500. But to arrive at the actual profit and loss account you ought to credit the income derived by the sale of court-fee stamps and labels to this Department, which comes to Rs. 4,05,000. You should also exclude from the expenditure item an amount of Rs. 4,884

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